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The Death of John Hay.

The death of John Hay, though not wholly unexpected, fell as a great affliction upon the whole nation, and, indeed, upon the whole world. There was no other man in public life, in any country, so far as we know, who was so universally respected, honored, and trusted. Appreciation of him was even deeper and stronger, if possible, among foreign peoples than at home. He was known and felt to be a truly international man, a man of the whole race, to whom justice and humanity knew no national boundaries, but were the same in China as in Great Britain or the United States.

There is so much in the world of low motive and persistent evil that pessimism as to the future of humanity is a state of mind into which it is very easy to fall. But this world-wide appreciation of a man like Mr. Hay makes one feel that after all there is a great deal of conscience and high moral aspiration among men in all parts of the globe, which give a most encouraging augury for the future.

It would be easy enough perhaps to point out special things in Mr. Hay's international work which are properly open to criticism. Some of the things which he did, or rather allowed himself to approve, have seemed to us entirely wrong from the moral point of view. But only a few persons have ever

doubted that his course in these matters was dictated by what he believed to be the true and best interests of all concerned, or that he was always loyal, or at least meant to be loyal, to the great principles of justice, equality and brotherhood.

Mr. Hay's great and wide influence over the world did not come from the possession of extraordinary abilities. In certain directions, to be sure, he had remarkable talent, but on the whole he was not enough above the average man in the political field to have given him the rank to which he attained. The real secret of his power was his goodness, his unswerving loyalty to truth and principle, which made it as easy for him to do right, as he conceived it, in Washington as in a Sunday school. Wealth did not eat out his vitality. Position did not make him haughty and exclusive. He remained a man, and grew more of a man in it all, so that it was always Mr. Hay himself that drew and held the attention, and not the high position that came to him, or the wealth that fell into his possession.

That he had greatly at heart the world's peace does not need to be said. Everybody that knew him, knew it. What he said in opening the great Peace Congress at Boston last October and welcoming the delegates in the name of the government was nothing but the simple expression of what he was and of the principles and motives out of which his conduct sprang. Mr. Hay held views about the admissibility of war under certain circumstances to which many of the friends of peace cannot subscribe, but on the constructive side of the organization of peace among the nations he was in the front rank of peacemakers. He believed in and promoted justice—and justice is one of the cornerstones of peace. He believed in the equality of right of the nations, great and small, strong and weak. With all the weight of his high position, as far as it was possible for him to do acting in conjunction with other men, he believed in and practiced international amity and good-fellowship. To do to others as we would have them do to us was to him in international affairs as self-evident a rule of conduct as in the relations of the members of a family, a church or a community.

Here is where his great strength lay, and it was this that made him the beloved and trusted of all men of all lands. In frankness and straightforwardness his diplomacy in the State Department did not differ noticeably from that of the eminent men who had preceded him in the Secretaryship of State.